

U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-CA-D050-2013-042-EA for Bronco Resources, LLC CACA-45475

Location within:
Township 23 South, Range 44 East, Sections 23, 24 & 36
And
Township 24 South, Range 45 East, Sections 6 & 7,
Mount Diablo Meridian
Inyo County, California

Office of Record:

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CHAPTER 1

nINTRODUCTION AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

1.0 Introduction

Bronco Resources, LLC has an existing authorization issued 2004 to drill and explore unpatented lode claims on the floor of the Panamint Valley south of the present Briggs mining operation. Bronco Resources also has a pending application to modify that 2004, adjusting the number and location of drilling sites on their claims. This present Environmental Assessment analyzes the expected impacts of authorizing that modification in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Environmental Assessments are intended to assist BLM in determining whether the impacts of a proposal are significant enough to merit preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, and also assist BLM in determining what conditions of approval may be needed to avoid unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands and resources. This assessment is limited to that purpose.

Background

The claims encompassing this action are near to, but separate from the Briggs Mine located within Inyo County, California. The BLM authorized a similar drilling plan from Bronco Resources for these same claims in 2004. Bronco Resources did not carry out the drilling program at that time, but now wishes to modify the authorization granted in 2004. This proposal adjusts the location and number of drilling locations involved. See Figure 1 for a general location of this action.

1.1 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The BLM has a need established by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act to avoid impairing the rights of ingress and egress of locators to mining claims established under the Mining Law of 1872, while at the same time taking any action necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands (reference [43 USC 1732\(b\)](#)). BLM has a need to respond to the claimant's application to sample and test certain locations at depth on their unpatented lode claims. It is BLM's purpose to comply with this need while at the same time ensuring compliance with required Surface Management performance standards, including Federal and state laws related to environmental protection and protection of cultural resources (43 CFR 3809.5 and 3809.420).

1.2 Decision to be made:

The Bureau of Land Management will decide whether to approve the plan modification desired by Bronco Resources LLC and, if so, under what mitigating terms and conditions of operation.

1.3 Conformance with BLM Land Use Plans

This proposal is in conformance with the California Desert Conservation Area Management Plan of 1980, as amended and the Northern and Eastern Mojave Management Plan, Record of

Decision approved December 20, 2002. These and other plans are publicly available at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/cdd/landuseplanning.html>. Both plans specify that mineral-related operations are allowed on public lands classified for Limited Use under the provisions of Surface Management regulations 43 CFR 3809. The present lands are classified as Limited Use lands.

1.4 Relationship to Statutes, Regulations or other Plans

The Proposed Action is consistent and complies with the following Federal laws and regulations:

- The Mining Law of 1872, [30 USC 22](#), provides for the right to explore and purchase valuable mineral deposits on lands belonging to the United States, so far as is not inconsistent with the laws of the United States.
- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 states it is the policy of the United States to manage the public lands in a manner that recognizes the nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, provides rights of ingress and egress to locators under the Mining Law of 1872, and mandates the Secretary of Interior to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands ([43 USC 1701\(a\)\(12\)](#) and [43 USC 1732\(b\)](#)).
- The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, [30 USC 21a](#), declares it is the policy of the United States to foster and encourage the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources.
- Surface Management regulations [43 CFR 3809](#) establish procedures and standards to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands by operations authorized by the mining laws.
- The National Historic Preservation Act, [16 USC 470](#), requires Federal agencies to consider the effect of Federal undertakings (including Federal authorizations) on sites that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.
- The Endangered Species Act, [16 USC 1536](#), requires Federal agencies to ensure that Federally-authorized actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species.

1.5 Scoping

BLM geologist Randall Porter conducted internal scoping of public land resource issues among the Ridgecrest Field Office staff. This included internal discussion of airquality, biological, heritage, wilderness, and soil resource issues. A contractor performed surveys for threatened, endangered and sensitive fauna and flora at the affected lands, while another contractor performed heritage surveys in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Geologist Randall Porter contacted and discussed the claimant's proposal with K. Fuhrmann, Resources Management at Death Valley National Park on January 16, 2013.

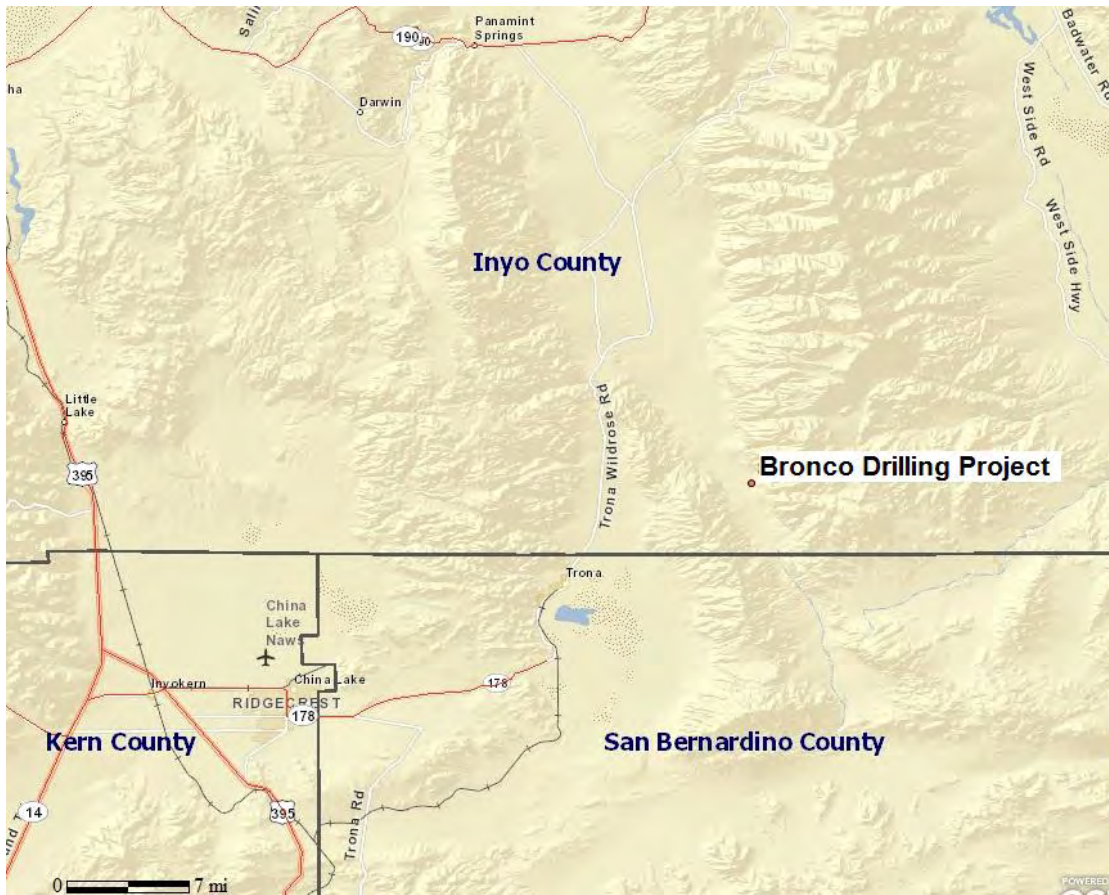


Figure 1. General location of the proposed action within Panamint Valley, Inyo County, California.

The scoping process has continued through the development of this document. All resources considered during the preparation of this document are listed in Appendix 3. Those resources conserved potentially impacted by the Proposed Action were carried forward into this EA and are identified in Chapter 3. Those resources not impacted by the Proposed Action are listed in Appendix 3 and are accompanied by a rationale for why the resource was not impacted. Resources not impacted were not carried forward into this document.

CHAPTER 2 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

2.0 Introduction

This environmental assessment focuses on the Proposed and No Action alternatives. The No Action alternative is BLM's 2004 authorization to explore the Bronco lode mining claims. The Proposed Action is a modification of this approval, adding and adjusting the location of several drill holes. Under National Environmental Policy Act, the No Action alternative provides the baseline comparison for impacts associated with the Proposed Action.

All mineral-related operations above the level of casual use on the public lands are subject to the Surface Management regulations and performance standards found in Title 43, Subpart 3809 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The pertinent performance standards from Title 43, Subpart 3809.420 are attached as Appendix 1 to this environmental assessment. These standards are common to both the Proposed and the No Action Alternatives.

2.1 Proposed Action

Project Description

The Proposed Action consists of accessing, drilling and sampling several unpatented lode claims owned by Bronco Resources and located on the southeastern floor of Panamint Valley within Inyo County, California. The operation will consist of 25 holes drilled from 25 sites. Drill holes will be approximately six inches in diameter. Drilling will be performed using either a buggy-mounted, track-mounted or truck-mounted drill rig. Support vehicles would include a water truck, a pipe truck and a pickup truck. Each drill hole is anticipated to take one day, no more than two days to complete. Drilling will be performed dry for as long as possible. If water or unstable downhole conditions are encountered, then drilling with mud will be utilized. A mud sump approximately 10 feet by 10 feet, 6 feet deep will be dug with a backhoe/excavator to collect drill cuttings and confine drill mud. Sumps will be fenced for safety reasons during periods prior to and following the actual drilling of the hole. The affected unpatented mining claims include:

Claim Name	BLM Serial No.	Township	Range	Section
Bronco #2	CAMC 279423	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco # 5	CAMC279426	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco #6	CAMC279427	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco #7	CAMC279428	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco #12	CAMC279615	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco #13	CAMC279616	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco #14	CAMC279617	24 South	45 East	6, 7
Bronco #15	CAMC279618	24 South	45 East	6
Bronco #25	CAMC279628	23 South 24 23	44 East 45 45	36 6 31
Bronco #26	CAMC279629	24 South	45 East	6
Bronco #28	CAMC279631	24 South	45 East	6
Bronco #29	CAMC279632	24 South	45 East	6, 7
Bronco #30	CAMC279633	24 South	45 East	7
Bronco #32	CAMC279635	24 South	45 East	6, 7
Bronco #33	CAMC279636	24 South	45 East	6
Bronco #35	CAMC279638	24 South 24	45 East 44	6 1
Bronco #36	CAMC279639	24 South 24 23	45 East 44 44	6 1 36
Bronco #44	CAMC279647	24 South	45 East	6
Bronco #47	CAMC279650	24 South	45 East	6
Bronco #100	CAMC281650	23 South	44 East	23, 24
Bronco #101	CAMC281651	23 South	44 East	23, 24

Bronco #102	CAMC281652	23 South	44 East	23, 24
Bronco #103	CAMC281653	23 South	44 East	24
Bronco #122	CAMC281672	23 South	44 East	23
Bronco #123	CAMC281673	23 South	44 East	23

Table 1. List of unpatented placer claims associated with this action. Further information On these claims is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/lr2000>.

Access to most drill sites will be on present roads, jeep trails and 2-track linear disturbances already existing on these public lands (including routes 944467, 944466, 942909, 942786, 944450, 944451, 942905, and 942787). Localities G-6, G-10, G-13, and G-18 through G-25 would require some overland travel off existing jeep trails (see illustrations below and images in Appendix 2). Such overland travel routes would require clearing a minor amount of boulders and smoothing of narrow washes/incised surface using a backhoe or excavator. The operator anticipates minimal disturbance due to the hard, rocky nature of the area involved. This alternative decreases the estimated amount of overland travel from 25,473 feet (the 2004 authorization) to 8,725 (this proposed modification) This alternative changes the location of several previously-approved drill holes by a few hundred feet, and changes the total number of drill holes from 18 holes (the No Action Alternative) to 25 holes (the present alternative). Holes G-1 and G-11 (originally numbered G-2B and G-3 in the 2004 description) are relocated to avoid historic features as requested in the BLM's March 2004 approval letter. See Figures 2, 3 and 4 for the general project area and specific hole locations.

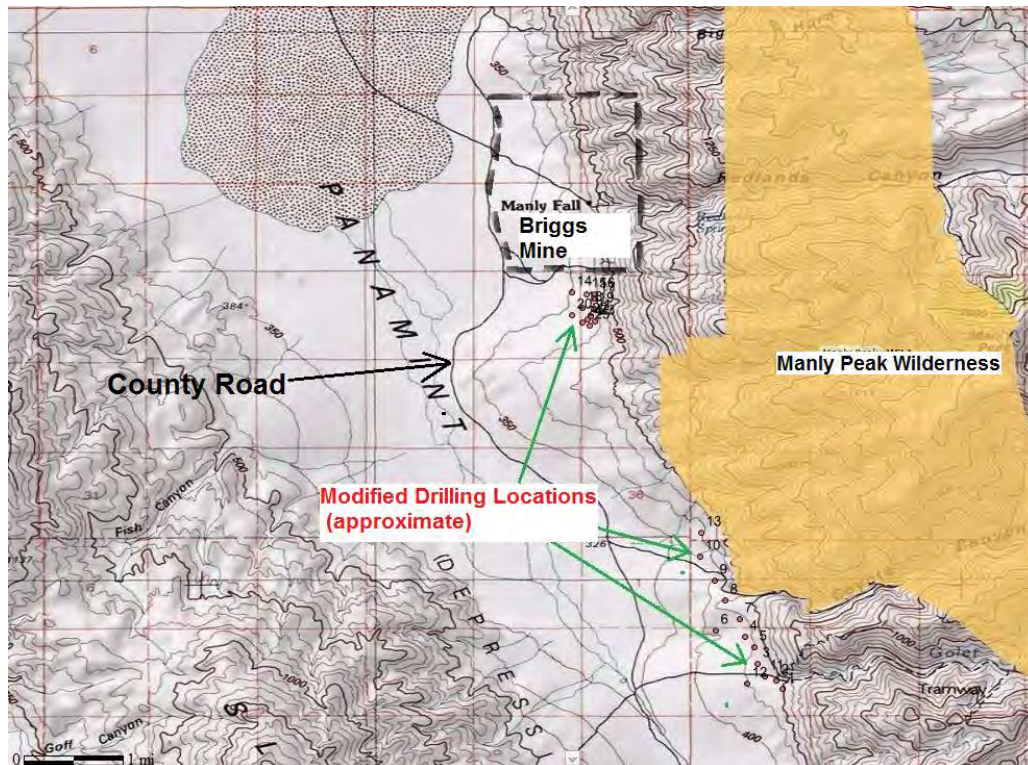


Figure 2. Approximate drilling locations and proximity to Briggs mine.

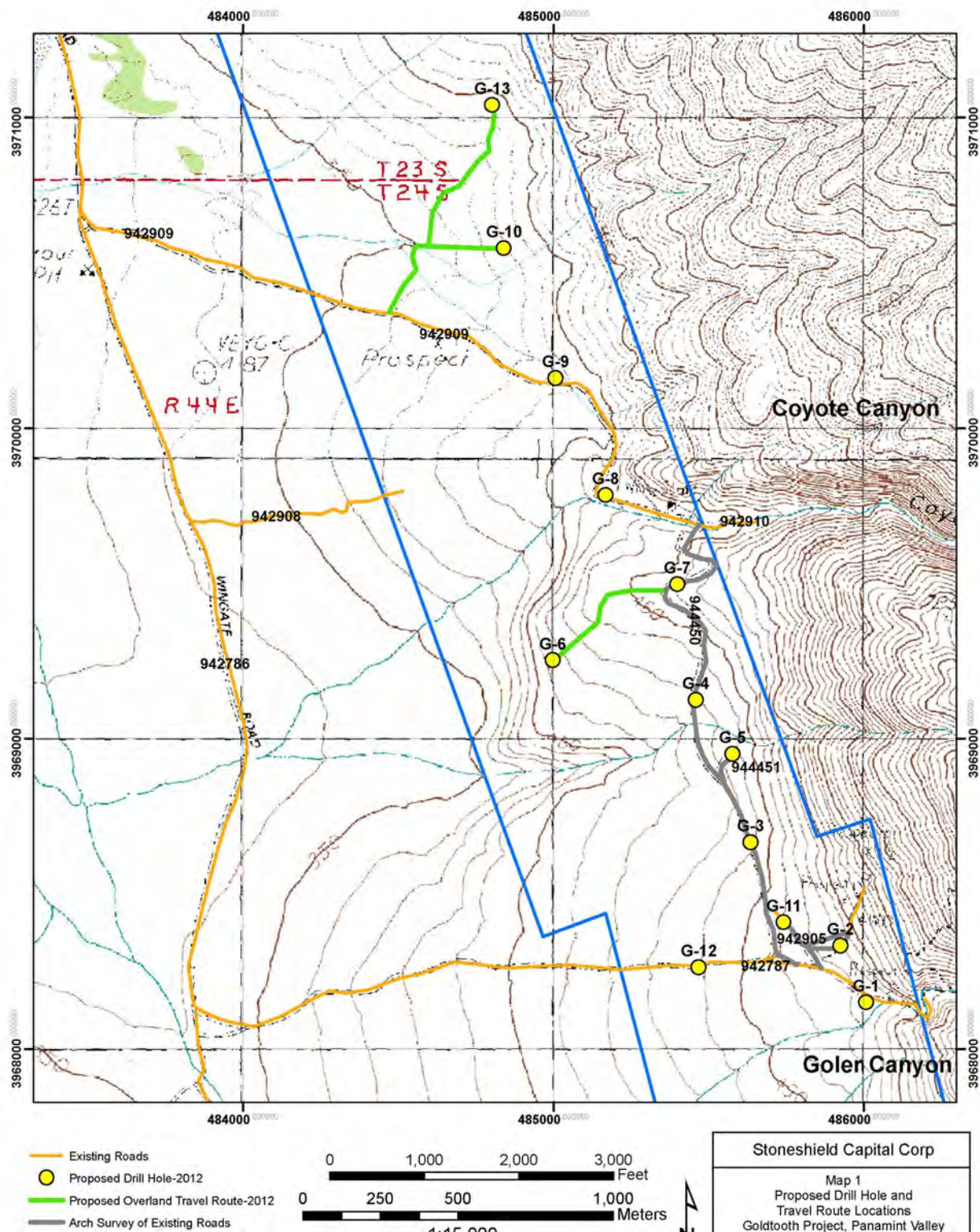


Figure 3. Location of proposed drilling locations G-1 through G-13.

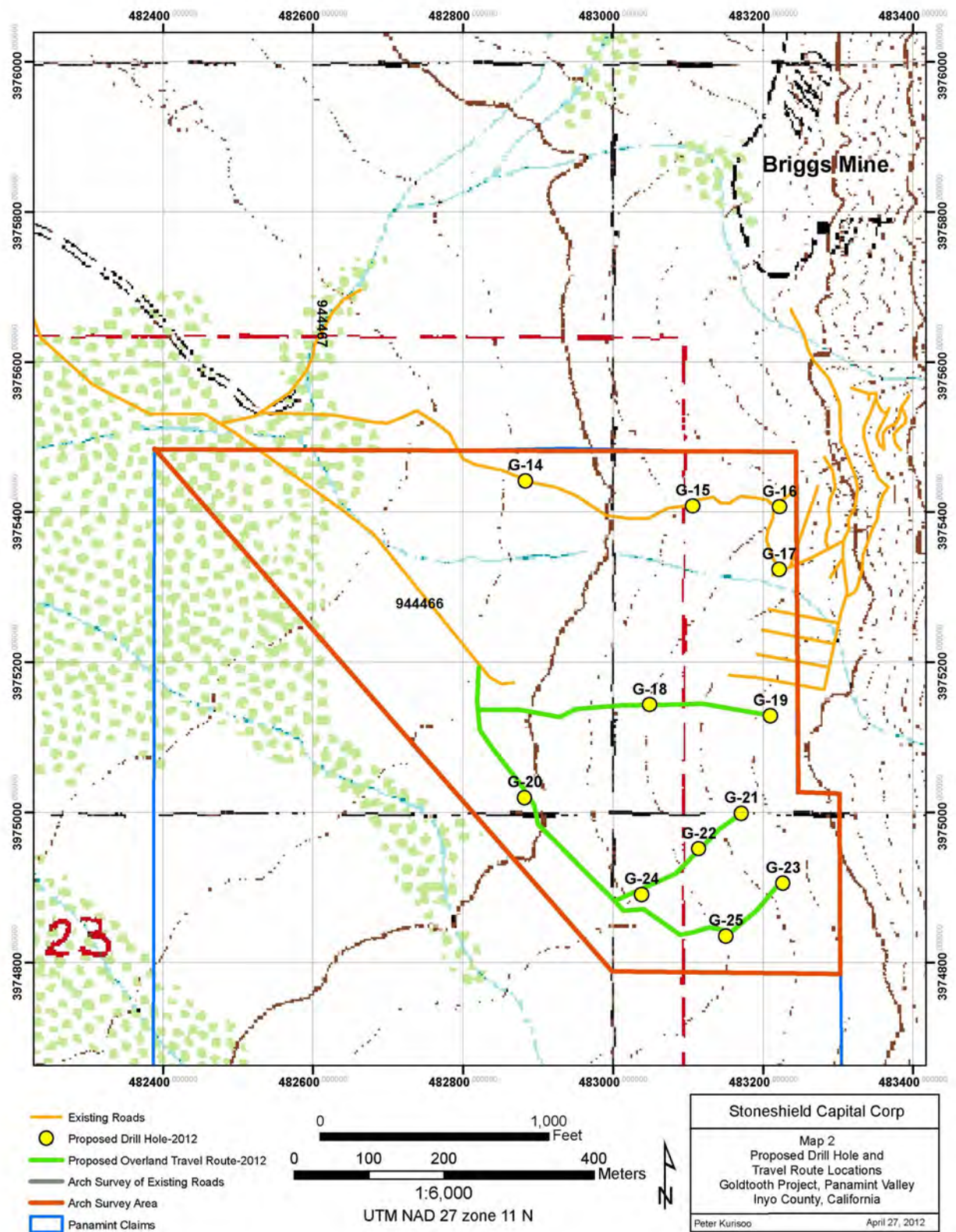


Figure 4. Location of proposed drilling locations G-14 through G-25.

The proposed plan modification is estimated to result in the following surface disturbance:

Drill sites and sumps:	0.17 acres
Overland Access Routes:	<u>0.80 acres</u>
TOTAL:	0.97 acres

Reclamation

All reclamation will be completed to the standards of 43 CFR 3809. All reasonable measures will be taken to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of public lands and resources during operations. Concurrent reclamation will be performed as conditions allow.

Each hole drilled dry will be abandoned and reclaimed by shoveling the excess drill cuttings at the surface down the hole. A five-foot cement plug will be installed at the hole surface. If it is not possible to return all of the cuttings back down the hole (for example, because of hole collapse below the surface), then remaining hole cuttings will be contoured and seeded in the same manner as the drill site disturbance described below.

Each hole, drilled wet, will be abandoned by filling the hole with bentonite slurry and/or bentonite pellets. The surface hole plugging procedure will be identical to that for holes drilled dry. Drill cuttings will remain in the backhoe-constructed mud sump. The sumps will be allowed to dry partially over a period of weeks to prevent overflow of drill mud/cuttings and subsidence of backfill material. For safety, all sumps will be fenced during the drying period. Final reclamation will consist of recontouring using a backhoe and broadcast seeding with a BLM-approved seed mix and hand-raking into the soil.

At completion of drilling all materials associated with drilling will be removed from the drill sites. In additions to the mud sump reclamation described above, any areas containing excess drill cuttings or rutting will be hand-raked to final contour, followed by broadcast seeding and raking the seed into the soil. Any areas of compaction will be scarified using a backhoe, seeded and hand-raked.

Along overland travel routes, any areas of rutting will be recontoured by hand-raking or backhoe. Areas of excess soil compaction will be scarified, seeded and hand-raked. Where possible, displaced boulders will be replaced, especially at the entrance to overland travel routes from existing roads and jeep trails to prevent unapproved future public use.

Bonding Requirements

Federal regulations require reclamation of areas disturbed in the course of operations. Federal regulation 43 CFR 3809 requires a financial guarantee for that reclamation and specifies the operator must provide that guarantee prior to beginning approved operations (43 CFR 3809.412). Financial guarantees are estimated per 43 CFR 3809.554 and are released when reclamation is satisfied at the end of operations. The operator's estimate for implementing the above reclamation is:

Drill Hole Plugging: Labor and materials (\$200/hole x 25 holes) = \$5,000.00

Mud Sump Reclamation: Backfilling, contouring and seeding 25 drill mud sumps and miscellaneous drill site disturbance.

38 hours contract backhoe time @ \$85.00/ hour	=	\$3,230.00
Labor-hand work and seeding (75 hours x \$20.00/hr)	=	\$1,500.00
Backhoe mobilization/demobilization from contractor yard	=	\$500.00
BLM-approved seed mix (0.17 acres total @ \$400.00/acre)	=	\$68.00
Vehicle and Travel	=	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Subtotal Drill Site Reclamation	=	\$5,730.00

Overland Travel Route Reclamation:

16 hours contract backhoe time @ \$85.00/hour	=	\$1360.00
Labor-hand work and seeding (32 hours x \$20.00/hr)	=	<u>\$640.00</u>
Subtotal Travel Route Reclamation		\$2,000.00

Subtotal = =====
\$12,730.00

BLM Contingency (10%)	=	\$1,273.00
Federal Profit (10%)	=	\$1,273.00
Contract Administration (18.9% BLM add-on)	=	\$2,405.79
Insurance (1.5% of Labor)	=	\$190.95

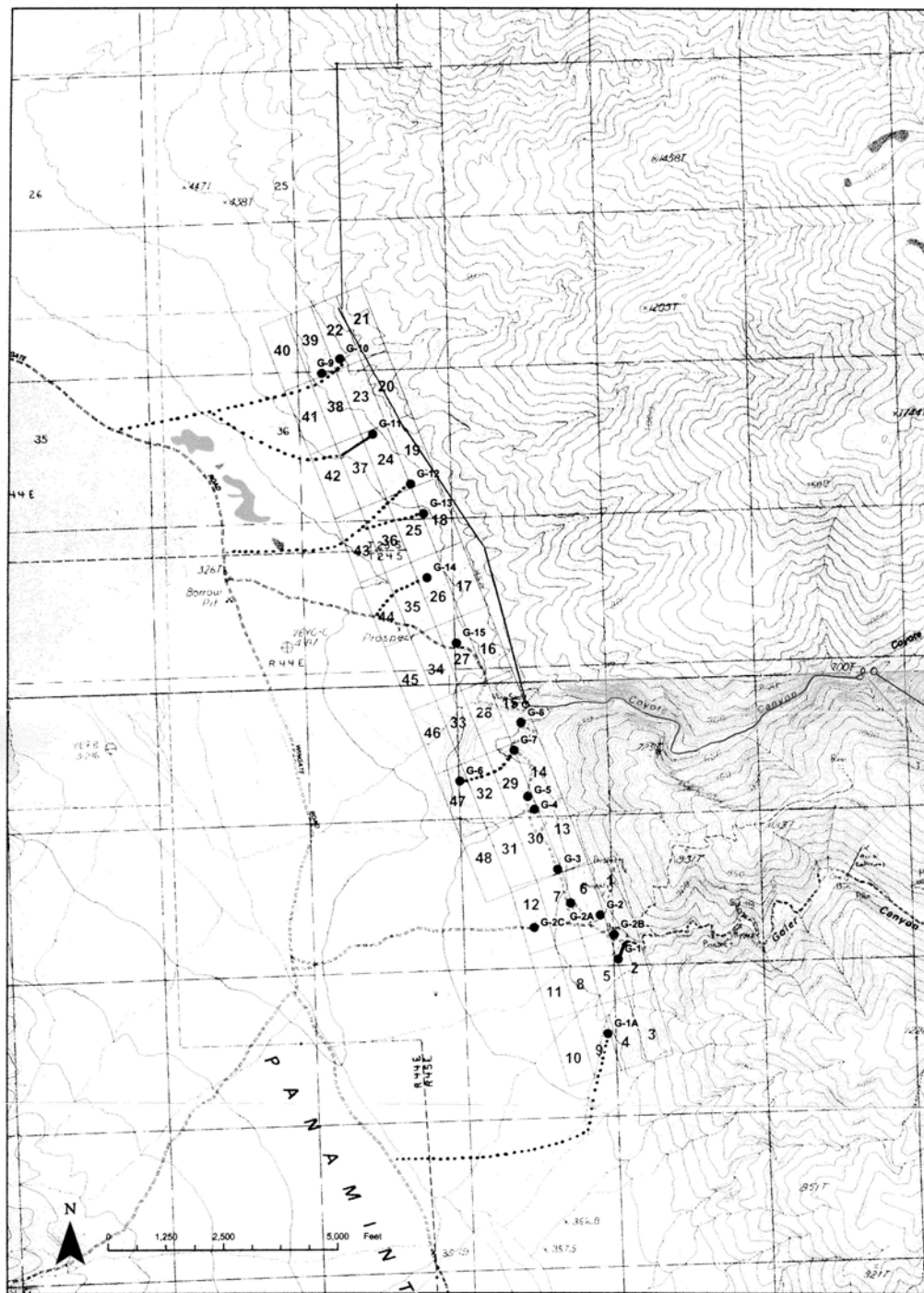
Total Reclamation Estimate = =====
\$17,872.74

2.2 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is the situation resulting if BLM denies or fails to choose a Proposed Action under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BLM previously authorized a drilling plan for Bronco Resources in 2004, and the Proposed Action is a modification of that plan. The No Action Alternative under NEPA is therefore the 2004 drilling authorization.

On March 12, 2004 the Bureau of Land Management authorized Bronco Resources (the owner of these lode claims) to drill 18 exploration holes on the unpatented Bronco lode claims located on the eastern floor of Panamint Valley, just outside of Coyote Canyon. That authorization has not expired or been revoked.

This alternative includes drilling 18 locations, each approximately 6 inches in diameter at sites indicated on Figure 5. Such drilling would be conducted using a buggy-mount drill equipped with very wide, low-pressure tires. Access to nine locations would be on existing trails or linear disturbances and seven locations accessible cross-county without need to construct any



Proposed Location of Exploration Drilling by Bronco Resources

- Location of proposed drill sites ● G-1A
- Proposed cross country route, no road construction - - - - -
- Proposed drill road with surface disturbance ———

Figure 5. The No Action Alternative: showing Bronco lode claims #1-48 with drilling locaitons G-1 through G-18.

road/access route. Two locations would need limited route access constructed with a small bulldozer, approximately 1000 feet for site G-11 and 300 feet for site G-1. BLM surveyed the proposal for wildlife & heritage resources in 2004. The proposal was approved, subject to adjusting the location of drill sites G-2B and G-3 to avoid conflict with heritage resources. The entire acreage of disturbance, including route construction, is less than one acre of public lands.

All materials associated with drilling would be removed from the drill sites. Excess drill cuttings would be shoveled into the hole and abandoned in compliance with BLM specifications. Any tracks made by the low-pressure tires would be raked across with neighboring natural material and replacing any large rocks displaced by passage of the buggy drill. Any dozer-made access route would be restored by contouring, scarifying and re-seeding with a BLM-approved seed mixture, or other measures as prescribed by BLM.

2.3 Alternatives Eliminated From Analysis

This document does not consider the alternative of remote sensing or sampling the claims without the use of drilling. This is because the purpose of the Proposed Action is to gather samples from any lode deposits that may exist under the shallow alluvium at these locations. Drilling is the only practical way to gather direct samples, as the present lode claims are covered by an unknown thickness of alluvium. Remote sensing would only gather indirect data.

This document also does not analyze any development within these claims beyond the present drilling project. This is because sampling and exploration are useful activities independent from that of mining. Given BLM's lack of data on mineralization within these specific claims, any further development analysis would be speculative rather than reasonably foreseeable.

CHAPTER 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents a description of the existing environment of the area potentially to be affected by the Proposed Action. Discussion includes those physical, biological, social, and other values which are necessary to understand the effects or potential effects of the alternatives so as to summarize what is needed for assessment or analysis.

An Interdisciplinary Team Checklist (Appendix 3) indicates which resources of concern are either not present in the project area or would not be impacted to a degree requiring detailed analysis. Resources which could be impacted to a level requiring further analysis are described in this chapter, and impacts on these resources are analyzed in Chapter 4.

3.2 General Setting, Physiography, Soil and Climate

The proposed exploration area is found at the base of the Panamint Mountains on alluvial deposits or bajadas (a bajada is a broad slope of alluvial debris formed at the base of a mountain). See Figures 2 -4 for topography of the area. Images in Appendix 2 also show how the land surface appears derived from debris carried out from mountain canyons to the east. The bajada community type is characterized by deep alluvium with extensive gravel, cobble, and larger-sized rock in the soil profile that is weakly cemented by imbricated sand. The soil surface is hard and largely barren with only a few scattered creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*) and burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*) typically dominant. Ground cover by vegetation typically ranges between 10 and 15 percent. Dry washes of various sizes intersect these fans and provide a looser soil matrix with sandcobble bars and cut banks. The soil is rocky and weakly cemented as a result of very low precipitation (perhaps 3-4 inches/year), high air temperatures (120°+ in the summer) and resulting low biological activity.

3.3 Biological Resources

The Project area is classified as Mojave Creosote Bush Shrub. The local vegetation is dominated by creosote bush, burrobush and brittlebush. Contracted plant surveys detected eight cylindrical cacti within 100 feet of proposed drill sites or overland route center lines, with some located between 40-90 feet of proposed sites and routes (report by Cedar Creek Associates, Inc.).

Wildlife species generally associated with the Mojave Creosote Bush Shrub vegetation class are those species typical of the Great Basin including mule deer, coyotes, mountain lion, and lagomorphs such as black-tailed jackrabbit and desert cottontail. Common bird species include mourning dove, western meadowlark, and common raven. Ground squirrels, pack rats, and kangaroo rats are also common in this type of ecosystem. Snakes and lizards such as the Great Basin fence lizard and western collared lizard are also found here (Goldtooth South EA, 2011).

Special Status Species

Special Status species having the potential to occur in the region include: Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Panamint Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria panamintina*) Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Townsend's Big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Nelsons bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelson*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) and the Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*).

3.4 Heritage Resources

A Class III intensive cultural resources inventory encompassing 192.5 acres of the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the Proposed Action was conducted in 2012 by ASM Affiliates (Winslow and McDaniel 2012, BLM Project CA-650-2011-34). This inventory included a 95-acre block inventory around twelve of the drill hole locations in the north end of the project area, thirteen one-acre survey blocks around the remaining thirteen drill locations, a 200 ft. corridor along three and one half miles of access route. A similar APE was inventoried by the BLM in 2004, however it was determined that the current Proposed Action APE differed enough to warrant additional survey. As a result of the 2012 inventory, ASM updated and finalized the

previously identified historic district CA-INY-8994, and sites CA-INY-8992 and CA-INY-8993. Six isolated occurrences of cultural material were newly identified.

The three sites identified within the project area were previously noted in the 2004 inventory. Site CA-INY- 8994 was recorded by Baskerville (2003) as part of the Butte Valley historic mining district and by ASM as potentially part of the Ballarat Mining District. Baskerville recommended CA-INY-8994 as a district eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion A and C. ASM was unable to locate additional information regarding the mining site, but did not exhaust the research potential for this site. Formal evaluation of the site is not complete, and remains potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Sites CA-INY-8992 and CA-INY-8993 are associated with the district, and are therefore potentially eligible for listing.

3.5 Land Use Planning Decisions

An operation this small would ordinarily be treated under the Notice provisions of federal Surface Management regulations on most public lands, rather than requiring an authorized Plan Of Operations. Notices are not required to have formal authorization. This present operation requires an authorized Plan because the prevailing land use management plan classifies the floor of Panamint Valley as “Limited Use.” Federal regulation [43 CFR 3809.11\(c\)\(1\)](#) specifies that operations greater than casual use must have an authorized Plan Of Operation prior to commencing any activity greater than casual use on lands classified as “limited” by the California Desert Conservation Area management plan. The decision to authorize a Plan Of Operations is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This effectively means any activity greater than casual use (in Class L lands) is subject to analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

3.6 Lands Having Wilderness Characteristics

[Secretarial Order No. 3310](#) directs the Bureau of Land Management to protect lands known to have wilderness characteristics through land-use planning and project-level decisions unless the BLM determines that impairment of wilderness characteristics is appropriate and consistent with other applicable requirements of law and other resource management considerations. While certain areas of Panamint Valley have been inventoried for suitable wilderness characteristics, the specific area of this project has not been inventoried. Figure 2 shows that several drilling locations are within less than a mile of the Manly Peak Wilderness. The same map also shows the Proposed Action is framed between the county-maintained Wingate Road, Goler Canyon Road and the Briggs open-pit mine. Figures 3 and 4 show that no drilling locations are south of Goler Canyon and all are on the floor of Panamint Valley.

3.7 Air Quality

The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) has state air quality jurisdiction over the area. The District regulates seven pollutants called “criteria pollutants”: Ozone (O₃), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Lead, two types of Particulate Matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5), Sulfur Oxides (SO_x) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x). The District also regulates Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S)

under a state standard. California has a toxics program that adopts regulations for particular sources of toxics, such as benzene from retail service stations, which the district is then required by state law to enforce. Title III of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 also regulates toxics.

The primary air pollutant present in the District is particulate matter (PM). The vast majority of efforts go toward controlling such dust emissions. As mentioned above, two types of PM are regulated. The difference is in the size of the particles – PM-10 is particulate matter with an average maximum size of 10 microns and PM-2.5 is 2.5 microns or smaller. The District monitors PM-10 levels at 9 locations in Inyo County and 3 locations in Mono County. Much of the PM-10 the District monitors comes from wood burning or dust from Owens and Mono lakes.

The Federal Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq. Section 176(c) and USEPA regulations (40 CFR part 93 subpart W) state in part “no department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall engage in, support in any way or provide financial assistance for license or permit, or approve any activity which does not conform to an applicable implementation plan”. They further state that a Federal agency must make a determination that Federal actions conform to the applicable implementation plan before the action is taken. The project area is within the air basin known as the Great Basin Valleys Air Basin.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides a [list](#) of nonattainment areas for PM-10 dust emissions within California, one being within Inyo County. That nonattainment area is *Owens Valley planning area Hydrologic Unit # 18090103*. This action is not within Owens Valley but in Panamint Valley. Panamint Valley is not within any nonattainment area. Conformity requirements do not apply to actions in this area. The GBUAPCD rules concerning fugitive dust emissions may apply to portions of this project. The project area lies entirely within an unclassified area for PM 10 and an attainment area for PM2.5. Refer to the maps showing PM-10 and PM-2.5 Area Designations for National Ambient Air Quality within Appendix 4.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This section analyzes the impacts of the Proposed Action to those potentially impacted resources described in the affected environment Chapter 3, above.

4.2 Impacts to Soil & Water

Direct/Indirect Effects

Both the Proposed Action and the No Action alternative will result in a temporary direct impact to slightly less than one acre of public lands & sparse vegetation, subject to the reclamation measures described in Chapter 2 and required by 43 CFR 3809. The Proposed Action decreases

the estimated linear distance of overland travel by 66%, from 25,473 feet to 8,725 feet. The Proposed Action and No Action alternatives have an unknown likelihood of encountering ground water at depth, with drilling subject to plugging and reclamation procedures. Drilling would potentially provide BLM with useful information on the depth and salinity of ground water, or lack of groundwater in this area.

Cumulative Effects

Given their small size and their proximity to an existing mine, both the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives are expected to have negligible cumulative impact to the appearance, biological resources and groundwater of Panamint Valley. The site(s) will be reclaimed and the disturbance is unlikely to be visible from a distance. This assessment cannot analyze the possibility of this exploration leading to further development, as the likelihood of further development cannot be reasonably foreseen until the results of this drilling are complete.

Mitigation

The Proposed Action as well as the No Action Alternative is subject to the reclamation and bonding requirements of 43 CFR 3809. *Reclamation* means taking any of several actions at the end of surface-disturbing operations in order to achieve conditions required by the BLM. Regulatory components of reclamation include, where applicable:

- (1) Isolation, control, or removal of acid-forming, toxic, or deleterious substances;
- (2) Regrading and reshaping to conform with adjacent landforms, facilitate revegetation, control drainage, and minimize erosion;
- (3) Rehabilitation of fisheries or wildlife habitat;
- (4) Placement of growth medium and establishment of self-sustaining revegetation;
- (5) Removal or stabilization of buildings, structures, or other support facilities;
- (6) Plugging of drill holes and closure of underground workings; and
- (7) Providing for post-mining monitoring, maintenance, or treatment.

In addition to the above performance standards and the measures described in Chapter Two, mitigation should include:

- If groundwater is encountered the operator will provide BLM with information including the depth to water, total dissolved solids, and other pertinent information.
- Any drill holes will be plugged and capped in conformance with the procedures outlined in the proposed action.

The above measures are expected to prevent any negative direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to soil and water resources.

4.3 Biological Resources

Direct/Indirect Effects

No mammals were observed during surveys, but scat and sign of antelope ground squirrel, kangaroo rat and feral burros were detected. No sign or burrows of desert tortoise were observed in or surrounding the project area. Panamint Valley is within the general range of birds such as the burrowing owl, Golden Eagle and Loggerhead Shrike, but the only bird directly observed was the common raven. No sensitive species were observed during wildlife surveys. No special status plant species were observed, either.

No measurable impact to special status plant or animal species is expected by either the Proposed or No Action Alternatives due to mitigation measures below.

Cumulative Effects

The Proposed and No Action alternatives are deemed unlikely to have any measurable cumulative impact to any endangered species, special status species or their habitat.

Mitigation

- Activities may not occur within 6 feet (2 meters) of cylindrical cacti species (cottontop and corkseed cacti). These 8 cacti have been flagged, and the GPS locations are in Table 3 of the Biological Report submitted via the proponent. A biological monitor must be on-site when route construction is in progress to insure that these plants are avoided by the proper distance.
- Avoid concentrations of rodent burrows when planning routes.
- Please follow guidelines to protect various bird species and avoid conducting activities during breeding season (generally February 1st through August 1st, depending on the species). If activities occur during the breeding season, then: 1) provide BLM with a shape file layer and GPS points of any nest locations detected in the project area prior to activities, and; 2) stay 400 meters away from any active nest unless the nest is that of a golden eagle. All activities must be 800 meters (½ a mile) away from a golden eagle nest.
- The Ridgecrest Field Office shall immediately be notified in the event that any indication of desert tortoise, Nelson's bighorn sheep, or other special status species, is found or noticed near the project area. Upon such notice the BLM authorized officer shall promptly investigate and determine such mitigating measures as are appropriate under the circumstances.

The above measures are expected to prevent any negative direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to special status animal and plant species.

4.4 Heritage Resources

Direct/Indirect Effects

Three cultural resource properties, CA-INY-8892, CA-INY-8993, and CA-INY-8994, have been recorded within the Area of Potential Effect. There will be no effect to these resources from the No Action Alternative.

Proposed drill sites G-1, G-2, and G-11 fall within the defined boundary of CA-INY-8994. These drill locations should be excluded from the Proposed Action based on the potential for impact to the district that is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Site CA-INY-8994 will be avoided by the exclusion of these drill locations. Sites CA-INY-8992 and CA-INY-8993 fall within the boundary of CA-INY-8994 and along the access routes for drill sites G-2 and G-1. These sites are likewise potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Proposed Action will have no impact to cultural resources provided the operator follows the above avoidance stipulation. No additional cultural resource inventory is required for the Proposed Action. Additional cultural resource inventory will be required if additional drill locations and access routes are proposed.

Cumulative Effects

The No Action and Proposed Action will have no cumulative effect on cultural resources following the stipulations as described above.

Mitigation

- All ground disturbing activities must be confined to the areas surveyed as part of the project listed above. If moved from the inventoried area, work shall cease until additional cultural resource inventory and review is completed.
- In the event that any cultural resources (historic or prehistoric) are encountered during ground disturbing activities, work shall cease, discoveries should be left intact, and the BLM Authorized Officer shall be notified immediately.
- In the event of discovery of human remains, pursuant to Federal law and regulations (Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) 16 USC 470 & 43 CFR 7; Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) 25 USC 3001 & 43 CFR 10; and, Public Lands, Interior 43 CFR 8365.1-7), as well as California state law (California Health & Safety Code 7050.5, Dead Bodies and California Public Resources Code 5097.98, Notification of Discovery of Native American Human Remains), all work in the area will cease immediately, nothing will be disturbed, and the area will be secured. The County Coroner's Office will be notified, as well as the BLM project archaeologist. Work may resume only with written authorization from the BLM Field Office Manager.
- Cultural & paleontological performance standards of Federal Regulation 43 CFR 3809.420(b)(8).

4.5 Land Use Planning

The Proposed and No Action Alternatives are not expected to have any effect on the land use classification of these lands.

4.6 Lands Having Wilderness Characteristics

The sites affected by this proposal have not been inventoried for wilderness characteristics per Secretarial Order No. 3011. The direct, indirect and cumulative effects of approving this Proposed Action are therefore likely to be identical to those of the No Action alternative.

4.7 Air Quality

Direct & Indirect Impacts

The Proposed Action would not affect air quality because activities utilizing mechanized equipment would be short term. The Air Basin is unclassified for PM 10 and is attainment for PM 2.5. No permits or authorizations from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD) would be required.

The project area is within the Great Basins Valleys Air Basin. The project area is in Panamint Valley which is not in a Federal non-attainment area. Conformity requirements do not apply to actions in this area. The GBUAPCD rules concerning fugitive dust emissions may apply to portions of this project.

Emissions from the Proposed Action will be minimal. No significant offsite impacts are anticipated. An increase in fugitive dust during wind storms could occur due to the soil disturbance as a result of the Proposed Action. Vehicle use on the access road will generate PM10 emissions throughout the project. The drilling operations will generate PM10 emissions as the heavy equipment moves soil. All of these emission levels would be small. The project as proposed does not exceed the de minimis emission levels and conforms to the SIP and no further conformity analysis or determination is necessary.

Cumulative Effects

The Proposed Action and No Action will have no cumulative effect on air quality.

CHAPTER 5 PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED

Table 5.1. List of Preparers

BLM Preparers

Name	Title	Responsibility for the Following Sections of this Document
Randall Porter	Geologist- Project Lead	Geology, Soils, Water Quality
Martha Dickes	Recreation Specialist	Wilderness, Recreation, ACEC

Shelley Ellis	Wildlife Biologist	ACEC, Hydrology, Soils, Bio-Crusts, Vegetation, Wildlife
Caroline Woods	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Ashley Blythe	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources
Paul Rodriquez	Realty Specialist	Lands and Access
Alex Neibergs	Wild Horse & Burro Specialist	Wild Horse & Burro, Invasive Species
Lori Ford	Resource Management Specialist	Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, Environmental Justice, Socio-economics, Hazardous Waste, Visual Resources

5.2 References

Cedar Creek Associate, Inc. “Stoneshield Capital Corporation Goldtooth Project: Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Fauna and Flora Surveys.” Cedar Creek Associates, Inc., Fort Collins, Colorado. Available at (BLM) Ridgecrest Field Office, Ridgecrest California.

Green Book Nonattainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, December 14, 2012, available online at <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/greenbk/>.

Hydrologic Units. Available online through <http://www.nationalatlas.gov/mapmaker/>.

Mining Claim Data. Publicly available online through <http://www.blm.gov/lr2000>.

Norman, L. & Stewart, R., “Mines and Mineral Resources of Inyo County.” California Journal of Mines and Geology, Vol. 47, No.1, January 1951.

Secretarial Order 3310. Publicly available online at http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Communications_Directorate/public_affairs/news_release_attachments.Par.26564.File.dat/sec_order_3310.pdf

Surface Management Regulations. Publicly available online at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/planning/nepa/webguide/cfr/43_cfr_3809.html

Surface Management Manual. Publicly available online at http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/wo/Information_Resources_Management/policy/blm_manual.Par.32340.File.dat/3809%20Manual%20final%209%207%2012.pdf

United States Code. Publicly available online at <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/uscode/>

Winslow, Diane L. and Sandy McDaniel 2012. “Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for Stoneshield’s Goldtooth Project, Panamint Valley, Inyo County, California.” Prepared for United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office. ASM Affiliates, Las Vegas, Nevada.

APPENDIX 1

The performance standards of Title 43, Subpart 3809 of the Code of Federal Regulations are common to all alternatives. These regulations state:

§ 3809.420 What performance standards apply to my notice or plan of operations?

The following performance standards apply to your notice or plan of operations:

(a) General performance standards —

- (1) Technology and practices.* You must use equipment, devices, and practices that will meet the performance standards of this subpart.
- (2) Sequence of operations.* You must avoid unnecessary impacts and facilitate reclamation by following a reasonable and customary mineral exploration, development, mining and reclamation sequence.
- (3) Land-use plans.* Consistent with the mining laws, your operations and post-mining land use must comply with the applicable BLM land-use plans and activity plans, and with coastal zone management plans under 16 U.S.C. 1451, as appropriate.
- (4) Mitigation.* You must take mitigation measures specified by BLM to protect public lands.
- (5) Concurrent reclamation.* You must initiate and complete reclamation at the earliest economically and technically feasible time on those portions of the disturbed area that you will not disturb further.
- (6) Compliance with other laws.* You must conduct all operations in a manner that complies with all pertinent Federal and state laws.

(b) Specific standards —

- (1) Access routes.* Access routes shall be planned for only the minimum width needed for operations and shall follow natural contours, where practicable to minimize cut and fill. When the construction of access routes involves slopes that require cuts on the inside edge in excess of 3 feet, the operator may be required to consult with the authorized officer concerning the most appropriate location of the access route prior to commencing operations. An operator is entitled to access to his operations consistent with provisions of the mining laws. Where a notice or a plan of operations is required, it shall specify the location of access routes for operations and other conditions necessary to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation. The authorized officer may require the operator to use existing roads to minimize the number of access routes, and, if practicable, to construct access roads within a designated transportation or utility corridor. When commercial

hauling is involved and the use of an existing road is required, the authorized officer may require the operator to make appropriate arrangements for use and maintenance.

(2) *Mining wastes.* All tailings, dumps, deleterious materials or substances, and other waste produced by the operations shall be disposed of so as to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation and in accordance with applicable Federal and state Laws.

(3) *Reclamation.* (i) At the earliest feasible time, the operator shall reclaim the area disturbed, except to the extent necessary to preserve evidence of mineralization, by taking reasonable measures to prevent or control on-site and off-site damage of the Federal lands.

(ii) Reclamation shall include, but shall not be limited to:

(A) Saving of topsoil for final application after reshaping of disturbed areas have been completed;

(B) Measures to control erosion, landslides, and water runoff;

(C) Measures to isolate, remove, or control toxic materials;

(D) Reshaping the area disturbed, application of the topsoil, and revegetation of disturbed areas, where reasonably practicable; and

(E) Rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife habitat.

(iii) When reclamation of the disturbed area has been completed, except to the extent necessary to preserve evidence of mineralization, the authorized officer shall be notified so that an inspection of the area can be made.

(4) *Air quality.* All operators shall comply with applicable Federal and state air quality standards, including the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857 *et seq.*).

(5) *Water quality.* All operators shall comply with applicable Federal and state water quality standards, including the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (30 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

(6) *Solid wastes.* All operators shall comply with applicable Federal and state standards for the disposal and treatment of solid wastes, including regulations issued pursuant to the Solid Waste Disposal Act as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*). All garbage, refuse or waste shall either be removed from the affected lands or disposed of or treated to minimize, so far as is practicable, its impact on the lands.

(7) *Fisheries, wildlife and plant habitat.* The operator shall take such action as may be needed to prevent adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species, and their habitat which may be affected by operations.

(8) *Cultural and paleontological resources.* (i) Operators shall not knowingly disturb, alter, injure, or destroy any scientifically important paleontological remains or any historical or archaeological site, structure, building or object on Federal lands.

(ii) Operators shall immediately bring to the attention of the authorized officer any cultural and/or paleontological resources that might be altered or destroyed on Federal lands by his/her operations, and shall leave such discovery intact until told to proceed by the authorized officer. The authorized officer shall evaluate the discoveries brought to his/her attention, take action to protect or remove the resource, and allow operations to proceed within 10 working days after notification to the authorized officer of such discovery.

(iii) The Federal Government shall have the responsibility and bear the cost of investigations and salvage of cultural and paleontology values discovered after a plan of operations has been approved, or where a plan is not involved.

(9) *Protection of survey monuments.* To the extent practicable, all operators shall protect all survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, bearing trees and line trees against unnecessary or undue destruction, obliteration or damage. If, in the course of operations, any monuments, corners, or accessories are destroyed, obliterated, or damaged by such operations, the operator shall immediately report the matter to the authorized officer. The authorized officer shall prescribe, in writing, the requirements for the restoration or reestablishment of monuments, corners, bearing and line trees.

(10) *Fire.* The operator shall comply with all applicable Federal and state fire laws and regulations, and shall take all reasonable measures to prevent and suppress fires in the area of operations.

(11) *Acid-forming, toxic, or other deleterious materials.* You must incorporate identification, handling, and placement of potentially acid-forming, toxic or other deleterious materials into your operations, facility design, reclamation, and environmental monitoring programs to minimize the formation and impacts of acidic, alkaline, metal-bearing, or other deleterious leachate, including the following:

(i) You must handle, place, or treat potentially acid-forming, toxic, or other deleterious materials in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of acid formation and toxic and other deleterious leachate generation (source control);

(ii) If you cannot prevent the formation of acid, toxic, or other deleterious drainage, you must minimize uncontrolled migration of leachate; and

(iii) You must capture and treat acid drainage, or other undesirable effluent, to the applicable standard if source controls and migration controls do not prove effective. You are responsible for any costs associated with water treatment or facility maintenance after project closure. Long-term, or post-mining, effluent capture and treatment are not acceptable substitutes for source and migration control, and you may rely on them only after all reasonable source and migration control methods have been employed.

(12) *Leaching operations and impoundments.* (i) You must design, construct, and operate all leach pads, tailings impoundments, ponds, and solution-holding facilities according to standard engineering practices to achieve and maintain stability and facilitate reclamation.

(ii) You must construct a low-permeability liner or containment system that will minimize the release of leaching solutions to the environment. You must monitor to detect potential releases of contaminants from heaps, process ponds, tailings impoundments, and other structures and remediate environmental impacts if leakage occurs.

(iii) You must design, construct, and operate cyanide or other leaching facilities and impoundments to contain precipitation from the local 100-year, 24-hour storm event in addition to the maximum process solution inventory. Your design must also include allowances for snowmelt events and draindown from heaps during power outages in the design.

(iv) You must construct a secondary containment system around vats, tanks, or recovery circuits adequate to prevent the release of toxic solutions to the environment in the event of primary containment failure.

(v) You must exclude access by the public, wildlife, or livestock to solution containment and transfer structures that contain lethal levels of cyanide or other solutions.

(vi) During closure and at final reclamation, you must detoxify leaching solutions and heaps and manage tailings or other process waste to minimize impacts to the environment from contact with toxic materials or leachate. Acceptable practices to detoxify solutions and materials include natural degradation, rinsing, chemical treatment, or equally successful alternative methods. Upon completion of reclamation, all materials and discharges must meet applicable standards.

(vii) In cases of temporary or seasonal closure, you must provide adequate maintenance, monitoring, security, and financial guarantee, and BLM may require you to detoxify process solutions.

(13) *Maintenance and public safety.* During all operations, the operator shall maintain his or her structures, equipment, and other facilities in a safe and orderly manner. Hazardous

sites or conditions resulting from operations shall be marked by signs, fenced, or otherwise identified to alert the public in accordance with applicable Federal and state laws and regulations.

APPENDIX 2

Arial imagery showing the proposed drill hole coordinates (NAD27).



Image 1. Indicating locations G-1 to G-3, G-11 and G-12. Locations are along the Goler Canyon road and adjacent to unnamed 2-track jeep trails.

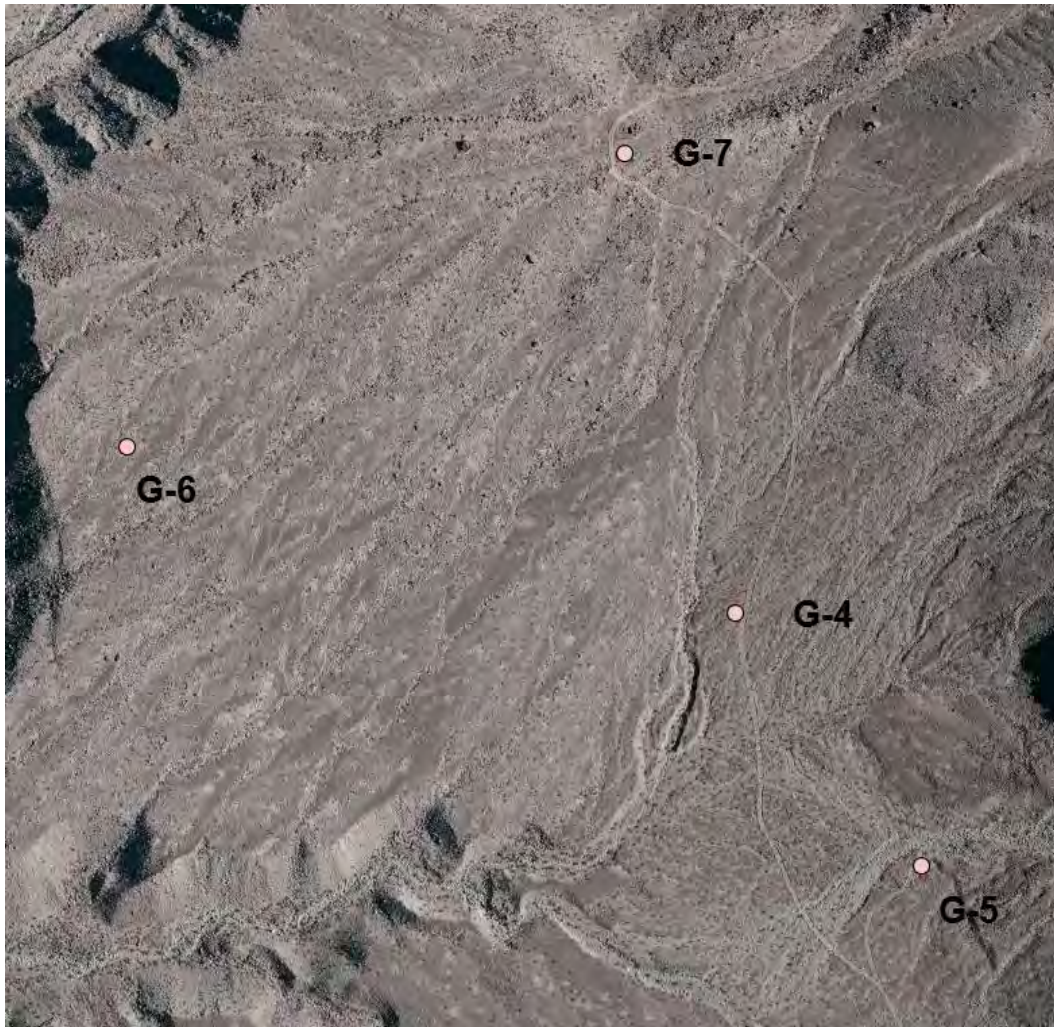


Image 2. Indicating locations G-4, 5, 6 and 7. Locations G-4, G-5 and G-7 appear along existing jeep trails, but not G-6.



Image 3. Indicating locations G-8, 9, 10 & 13. Locations G-10 and G-13 would require travel off existing trails.

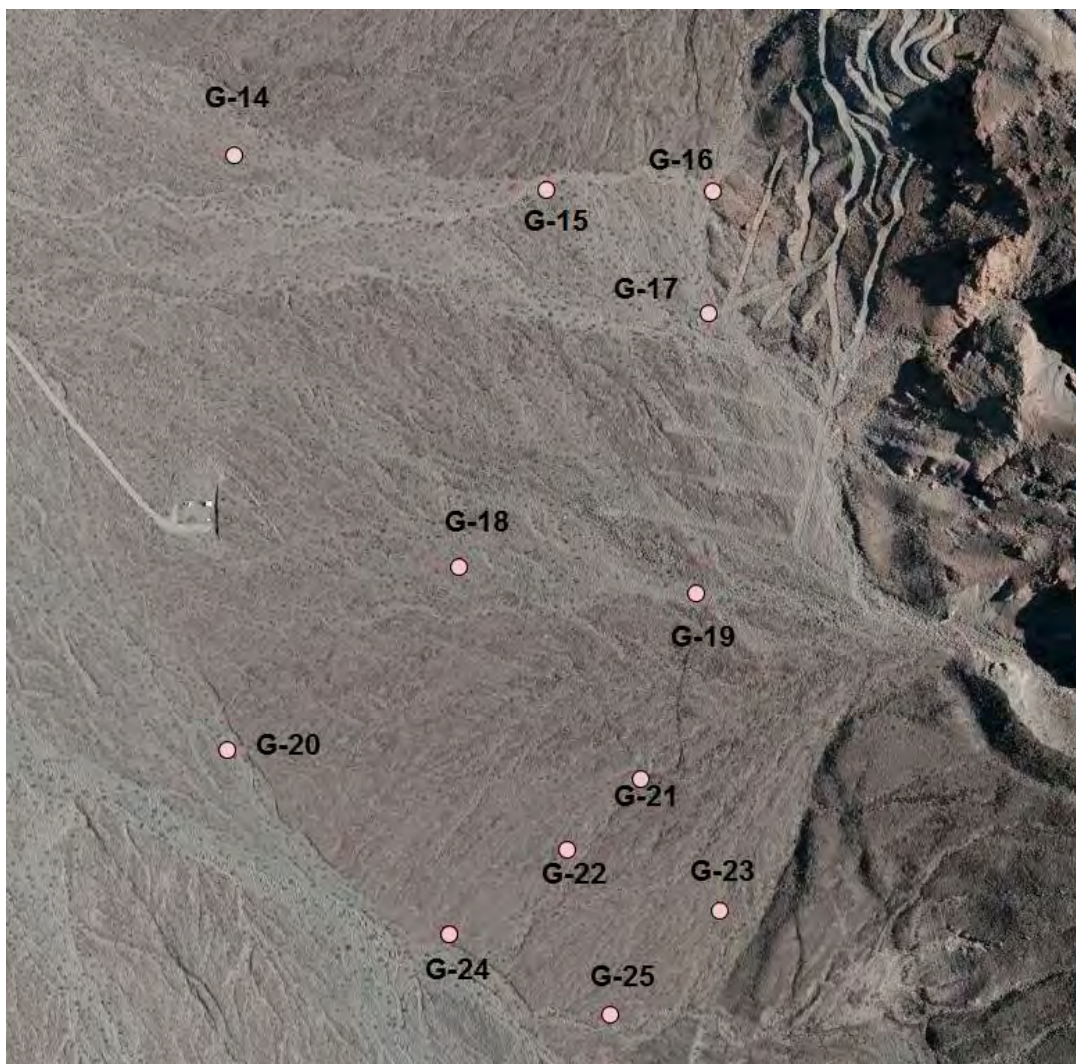


Image 4. Locations G-14 through G-25 adjacent to the Briggs Mine.

APPENDIX 3

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

Project Title: Bronco drilling exploration

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-CA-D050-2012-015

File/Serial Number: CACA-45475

Project Lead: Randall Porter

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for significant impact analyzed in detail in the EA; or identified in a DNA as requiring further analysis

NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section C of the DNA form.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Air Quality	The Alternatives would not affect air quality because activities would be short term. The project area is within the Great Basins Valleys Air Basin. The project area is in Panimint Valley which is not in a Federal non-attainment area. Conformity requirements do not apply to actions in this area. The GBUAPCD rules concerning fugitive dust emissions may apply to portions of this project. The operator will obtain the required permits or authorizations from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD).	Lori Ford	3/27/2013
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	No ACEC is within this project location based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office planning documents, CDCA & NEMO.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NI	Cultural Resources	Following the stipulations provided in the EA, there will be no impact to cultural resources located within the project area.	A. Blythe	4/8/2013
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	The Alternatives would contribute to GHG but would be negligible because activities would be short term. The project area is within the Great Basins Valleys Air Basin.	Lori Ford	3/27/2013
NI	Environmental Justice	According to the EPA Region 9, State of California, Environmental Justice Map, the region has been categorized a minority population area of 20-30% and a poverty population area of 0-10%. No minority or economically disadvantaged communities are present which could be affected by the Proposed Action or Alternatives. http://epamap14.epa.gov/ejmap/ejmap.aspx?wherestr=Ballarat%2C%20CA 3/25/13)	Lori Ford	3/25/2013
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	No farmlands are identified in this area based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office planning documents, CDCA & NEMO. .	R. Porter	3/21/2013

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NP	Floodplains	No floodplains identified on these lode claims based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office planning documents, CDCA & NEMO.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NI	Fuels / Fire Management	Very low fuel load based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office Fire Management Plan.	Don Washington	4/8/2013
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources / Energy Production	Project allows quantitative sampling of mineralization. The project should have no measurable effect on whatever deposit may be present.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NP	Invasive Plants / Noxious Weeds	Invasive or Invasive plant species are not present along access to or at the drill sites.	A Neibergs	3/22/2013
NI	Lands / Access	Follow pre-established routes. Disturbance is subject to reclamation.	Paul Rodriquez	4/4/2013
NP	Livestock Grazing	Not within any grazing allotment based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office planning documents, CDCA & NEMO.	Sam Fitton	4/8/2013
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	Not identified during consultation efforts by the Ridgecrest Field Office.	A. Blythe	4/8/2013
NP	Paleontology	This project has negligible potential to disturb any paleontological resource. The site has very low potential for occurrence of paleontological resources.	R. Porter	3.21/2013
NI	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	The project area would undergo a temporary disturbance that would not diminish the Land Use Class objectives based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office planning documents, CDCA & NEMO. Impacts to rangeland health would be negligible.	Sam Fitton	4/8/2013
NI	Recreation	The operator will use existing routes and will rehabilitate areas of cross country travel.	Craig Beck	4/8/2013
NI	Socio-economics	The local economy would be positively affected by the project. The degree would be negligible.	Lori Ford	3/27/2013
NI	Soils	This project is deemed to have no lasting impact to soil resources.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NI	Special Status Animal Species other than USFWS candidate or listed species e.g. Migratory birds.	Addressed in environmental assessment. No or negligible impact as long as stipulations are complied with.	S. Ellis	4/8/2013
NI	Special Status Plant Species other than USFWS candidate or listed species	The habitat for special status species is rated poor.	S. Ellis	4/8/2013
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	No special status species have been observed in the project area. See environmental assessment.	S. Ellis	4/8/2013
NI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	The habitat for special status plant species is rated poor.	S. Ellis	4/8/2013
NI	Vegetation	Follow Stipulations	S. Ellis	4/8/2013
NI	Visual Resources	The project area would undergo a temporary disturbance that would not diminish the Land Use Class objectives based upon review of Ridgecrest Field Office planning documents, CDCA & NEMO.	Lori Ford	3/27/2013

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination*	Signature	Date
NI	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	No potentially harmful materials would be left on or in the vicinity of the project area. No chemicals subject to SARA Title III in amounts greater than 10,00 pounds would be used. No extremely hazardous substances as defined in 40 CFR 355 in threshold planning quantities would be used. The operator will utilize BMPs. Solid waste generated from the project area will be properly disposed at an approved landfill or recycled when possible.	Lori Ford	3/27/2013
NI	Water Quality (surface / ground)	Plugging procedures in the proposed action are deemed sufficient to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of water resources.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NI	Waters of the U.S.	No effect to any recognized waters of the U.S.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NP	Wetlands / Riparian Zones	No wetlands are identified on these lode claims in any planning document. No plant community consistent with riparian zones exists on these lode claims. Refer to botanical survey report.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	No wild & scenic rivers are identified in or adjacent to the lode mining claims listed in this action.	R. Porter	3/21/2013
NI	Wild Horses and Burros	Holes will be filled with Bentonite immediately after drilling preventing any burros from potentially stepping into the drill site.	Alex Neibergs	3/22/13
NP	Wilderness	The project area lies outside of the Manly Peak Wilderness Area.	Martha Dickes	3/21/2013
NI	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.	Not inventoried based upon review of Ridgcrest Field Office Resource Management Plans. No impacts anticipated.	Martha Dickes	3/21/2013

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
NEPA / Environmental Coordinator	<i>Lori Ford</i>	<i>4/8/13</i>	<i>ready for review</i>
Authorized Officer	<i>W.B. M</i>	<i>4/9/13</i>	

Follow the italicized instructions below and then delete the asterisks "" in the checklist, this sentence, and the instructions.*

**Rationale for Determination is required for all "NIs" and "NPs." Write issue statements for "PIs"*

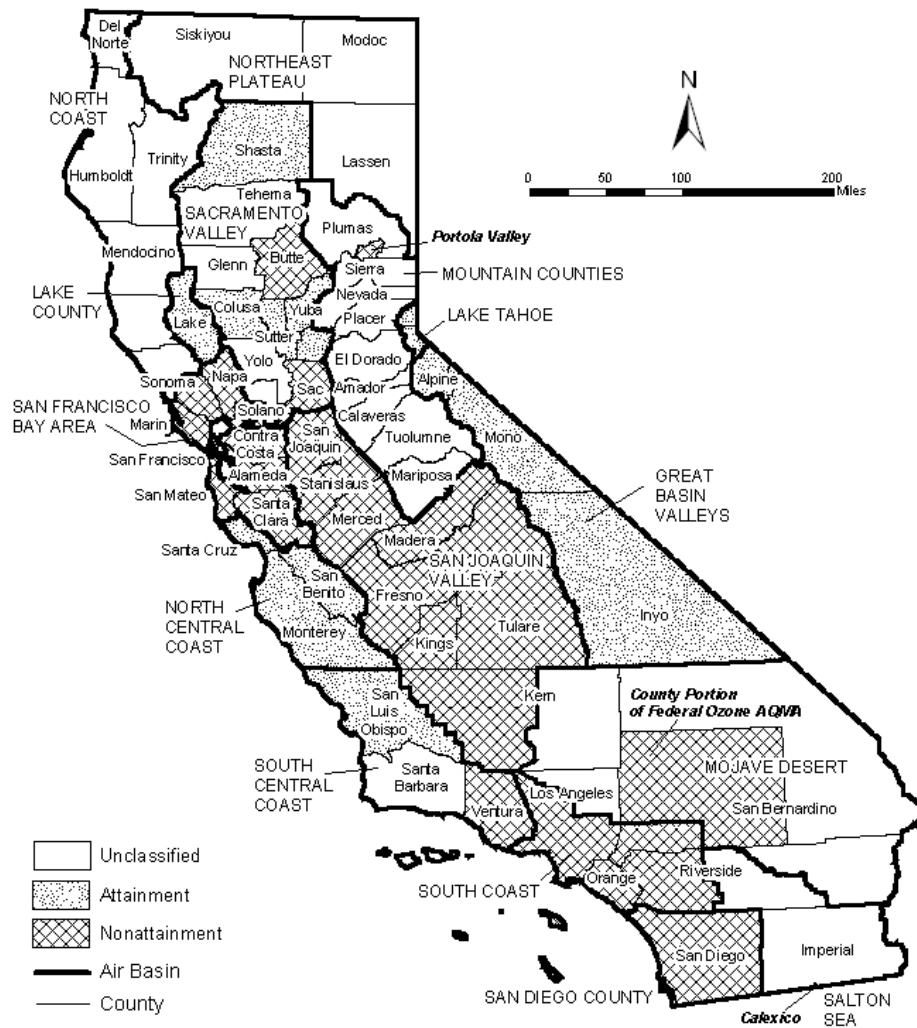
APPENDIX 4

Area Designations for National Ambient Air Quality Standards PM10



Figure 1: Area Designations for National Ambient Air Quality standards PM10

**2011
Area Designations for State
Ambient Air Quality Standards
PM_{2.5}**



Source Date:
February 2011
Air Quality Data Branch, PTSD

Figure 2: Area Designations for National Ambient Air Quality standards PM_{2.5}